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SECOND REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Report of the Secretary-General**

INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 36/8 on the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, the Commission on the Status of Women decided that the agenda for the Fourth World Conference on Women shall include the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, at its thirty-seventh session, a report containing information on data that would be used in the formulation of the second report on the implementation of the Strategies and an outline of the second report, in which special emphasis should be given to the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal - particularly those referring to the condition of women in developing countries - contained in the annex to Council resolution 1990/15.

2. In its resolution 45/129, the General Assembly urged Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to implement the recommendations and conclusions. It also reaffirmed paragraph 2, on the improvement of the pace of implementation of the Strategies in the crucial last

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* E/CN.6/1995/1.

** The present document contains the introduction to the report of the Secretary-General. Chapters I-III will be issued as addenda.

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decade of the twentieth century. It stated that the cost of failing to implement the Strategies would be high in terms of slowed economic and social development, misuse of human resources and reduced progress for society as a whole and, for that reason, that immediate steps should be taken to remove the most serious obstacles to the implementation of the Strategies.

3. The Economic and Social Council acknowledged the obstacles encountered in the preparation of the first review and appraisal, in particular the inadequate response to the questionnaire sent out to all member States. By its resolution 1990/9 of 24 May 1990, the Economic and Social Council requested that the second review and appraisal should be based on national reports and available analysis of statistical data in the United Nations system and in other pertinent governmental and non-governmental organizations. As stated in the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, 1/ the preparatory process should be utilized to develop new and innovative approaches to statistics, to be ultimately reflected in the review and appraisal, which should compare women with men and show changes occurring over time.

4. At its thirty-seventh session, the Commission considered a report by the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal. In its resolution 37/7, the Commission urged Governments to initiate preparations for their national reports as soon as possible and to ensure that they were submitted to the regional conferences in time to serve as contributions to the regional reviews and appraisals and to the Conference secretariat in time to serve as contributions to the global review and appraisal. It recommended that at all levels the review and appraisal focus on priorities of Governments and highlight the critical areas of concern identified in the structure of the platform for action. It requested the secretariat to prepare a list of the most significant indicators on the basis of the critical areas of concern identified in the structure of the platform for action, taking into account the availability of reliable national statistics, and to circulate the list to national committees and focal points to initiate and promote preparations for the Fourth World Conference. It also requested the secretariat to use the necessary machinery to include the results of the regional conferences in the second report on the review and appraisal.

5. As requested, the Secretary-General of the Conference circulated, in a note verbale, a model structure for national reports, including the list of indicators. (See annex I.)

6. The second review and appraisal, also as requested, has been prepared on the basis of information contained in national reports, the results of the regional conferences and information provided by specialized agencies of the United Nations system. It draws heavily on gender statistics assembled by the Statistical Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, in Women's Indicators and Statistics Database (WISTAT), version 3. 2/ It has made use of information provided by other governmental and non-governmental organizations. A first draft of the document was circulated to all organizations of the United Nations system for comments in their respective areas of competence.

7. As mandated by the Commission at its thirty-eighth session, the review and appraisal is structured around the platform for action. It should be seen as the factual support for the conclusions and recommendations found in the platform.

8. Chapter III of the review and appraisal follows the general structure of part V of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and reviews international action.

9. The review and appraisal has been able to make use of the 130 national reports that were received by the Conference secretariat by 1 December 1994. The table below shows the distribution of reports by region.

Table. National reports received and used in the review and appraisal

Region	Number
Africa	41
Asia and the Pacific	20
Latin America and the Caribbean	29
Western Asia	9
Western Europe and Other	31

Notes

1/ "Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace" (E/CN.6/1992/3).

2/ The development of WISTAT was made possible by support from the United Nations Population Fund. The statistics are being made available to the Conference in the update of The World's Women: Trends and Statistics.